



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

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SPECIAL CEREMONIES PLANNED FOR 1989 DUCK STAMP'S FIRST DAYS OF SALE; SOUVENIR CARDS GO ON SALE; CONTEST REGULATIONS ANNOUNCED

A pair of lesser scaup swimming out of the reeds graces the new 1989-1990 Federal Duck Stamp which goes on sale across the country July 1.

Special first-day-of sale ceremonies featuring this year's Duck Stamp artist, Neal Anderson, will be held on June 30 in Washington, DC, and July 1 in Lincoln, Nebraska, Anderson's home town. Anderson is the winner of the 1988 Duck Stamp contest, the annual event to choose the artist for the following year's Duck Stamp. July 1 also signals the official opening of the 1989-1990 Duck Stamp Contest.

This year's Duck Stamp, formally known as the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, costs \$12.50, up \$2.50 from last year. The increase is in accordance with the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act passed by Congress in 1986 and helps keep up with growing real estate costs.

Hunters 16 years of age or older must carry a current signed Federal Duck Stamp to hunt waterfowl. However, the stamp is also popular with nonhunters who want to make a contribution to wetlands conservation, and stamp collectors who recognize its beauty and value.

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Since the Duck Stamp program (the longest running Federal stamp program of its kind) began in 1934, close to 4 million acres of wetlands have been purchased through the stamp's revenues.

"The Bush Administration is committed to ending the loss of our Nation's wetlands," said Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan. "Buying a Federal Duck Stamp is an easy and convenient way for the public to help protect vital habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife."

In fiscal year 1988, the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acquired 66,000 acres by obligating \$31.7 million from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (which includes revenues from Duck Stamp sales), and to date has obligated nearly \$15 million to acquire 33,000 acres in fiscal year 1989.



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Facts

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1989-90 FEDERAL DUCK STAMP INFORMATION

First Days of Sale Programs

The first days of sale for the 1989-90 Federal Duck Stamp designed by Neal Anderson of Lincoln, Nebraska, will be marked with special ceremonies held in Washington, DC, and Lincoln, Nebraska.

Anderson will be at both ceremonies to sign stamps and souvenir cards created from his winning painting of two lesser scaup. On June 30, Anderson will join officials from the Interior Department, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Postal Service, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Smithsonian Institution in events open to the public.

The Washington ceremony will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the National Museum of American History, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW.

Souvenir Cards Also Available

Souvenir cards with the 1989-90 Duck Stamp attached will be available for sale at both ceremonies and by mail. The cost of the Duck Stamp on the card will go into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. The remaining money will go to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, a non-profit organization which supports wildlife conservation projects.

Of a total of 10,000 cards, 1,750 will bear two first-day-of-sale U.S. Postal Service cancellations. The first cancellation, "Duck Stamp Station," will be made at the Headsville Post Office, part of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, DC. A second cancellation, from Lincoln, Nebraska, will read "Blue Bill Station."

FWS-F-062

For further information, contact:

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Please refer to FWS-F-062 when making inquiries.

The first 750 cards will be numbered in gold. Numbers 1-10 will sell for \$150; numbers 11-100 will sell for \$75; and numbers 101-750 will sell for \$50. One thousand unnumbered cards with the two cancellations will sell for \$25 each. Over 8,000 additional mint cards bearing no cancellations will be available for \$18 apiece.

Souvenir cards can be ordered by mail from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation prior to and after the July 1 ceremonies. Send a check or money order and a written request for card numbers and desired quantities to: Duck Stamp Souvenir Cards, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Room 2556, Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets, NW., Washington, DC 20240, telephone: 202-343-1040.

This Year's Contest Regulations

Regulations governing the annual Duck Stamp Contest were revised in 1988 in order to ensure that all species of North American waterfowl eventually will be represented in the Duck Stamp series, thereby increasing its collection appeal.

The number of species of North American waterfowl which artists can depict for the 1989 contest is limited to the following five:

- (1) Black-bellied Whistling Duck
- (2) Black Scoter
- (3) Spectacled Eider
- (4) Barrow's Goldeneye
- (5) Red-breasted Merganser

The contest opens July 1. All entries must be postmarked no later than midnight September 15, 1989. The Duck Stamp Contest judging will be held Monday and Tuesday, November 6 and 7, at the Department of the Interior Auditorium, 18th and C Streets NW., Washington, DC. This event is free and open to the public.

The five species were selected from a list of eight which have never before appeared on a Federal Duck Stamp. An attempt was made to select a combination of species whose collective ranges cover the contiguous United States and Alaska.

Through an annual process of elimination established by the regulations, all 42 species of North American waterfowl will become part of the Duck Stamp series by 1997. Copies of this year's Duck Stamp Contest regulations can be obtained from: Federal Duck Stamp Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Room 2058, Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets NW., Washington, DC 20240, telephone: 202-343-4354.